

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Specifically, step (b) in the method for producing a double-crosslinked hyaluronic material has been amended to correct a typographical error in lines 9-10 of the claim -- that is, the reference to "step (b)" should be a reference to "step (a)"-- and to thus clarify that step (b) of the method involves:

subjecting the product obtained from step (a) to a second crosslinking reaction using either an epoxide compound as a crosslinking agent if a carbodiimide compound was used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), or using a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent if an epoxide compound was used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), thereby obtaining a double crosslinked hyaluronic material.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

The Examiner states that the phrase "compound not used in step (b) as a crosslinking agent" set forth in claim 1 renders the claims indefinite, because one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been apprised of the metes and bounds of the crosslinking agent employed in step (b).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 was not indefinite as written, and that persons of ordinary skill in the art would immediately recognize that the reference to "step (b)" was a

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typographical error, and that Applicants intended to refer to "step (a)". To correct this error, the claim has been amended as set forth above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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